



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2404		DATE: 1/27/2026
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:57 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CAMELLIA PETERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 417-726-9475	
REPRESENTING: AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 94			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: cpeterson@afphq.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 11:30 PM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIMANE MBENGUE		PHONE NUMBER: 816-206-1512	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACADEMIE LAFAYETTE		TITLE: SUPERINTENDENT	
ADDRESS: 201 EAST ARMOUR BOULEVARD			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64111
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KATE CASAS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-809-5042	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 117 MADISON			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TRICIA WORKMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-4430	
REPRESENTING: MO CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL ASSOC.		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 115 E. HIGH			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRIS ROEPE		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 205 E. CAPITOL AVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352			
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63302
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 8:59 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
The Missouri Equity Education Partnership opposes this bill.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON BERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN FEDERATION IF TEACHERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: ronalddberr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 4:10 PM	

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The American Federation of Teachers of Missouri oppose both HB 2172 and HB 2404.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 11:06 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

HB 2404 is an unconstitutional intrusion into local self-governance, property rights, and democratic accountability, and it should be rejected.

At its core, this bill commandeers locally owned public property and strips school districts, municipalities, and counties of their lawful authority to determine how community assets are used. By voiding deed restrictions retroactively and prohibiting future use conditions, HB 2404 violates fundamental principles of property law, contract law, and due process.

The Missouri Constitution does not permit the General Assembly to retroactively nullify valid contracts or deed restrictions entered into by political subdivisions.

Article I, Section 13 prohibits laws impairing the obligation of contracts, yet this bill explicitly declares existing, lawful restrictions “void from inception.” That is not regulation—it is confiscation by statute.

Further, HB 2404 undermines Article IX of the Missouri Constitution, which entrusts the governance and management of public education to locally elected school boards.

Decisions about surplus facilities involve long-term planning, enrollment projections, safety, taxation, and voter-approved bond obligations.

This bill replaces local judgment with a one-size-fits-all mandate favoring a specific class of entities—charter schools—regardless of community impact.

The so-called “right of first refusal” framework is coercive and misleading. School districts are forced to hold property open, publicly advertise it, and negotiate under state-imposed timelines—even when doing so undermines fiscal responsibility or future district needs.

This is not voluntary cooperation; it is legislative compulsion.

Most concerning, HB 2404 creates unequal treatment among public entities, privileging charter schools over traditional districts while denying local voters any say in how their tax-funded assets are repurposed.

That raises serious equal protection and special-law concerns under Article III, Sections 40 and 42 of the Missouri Constitution.

Local communities paid for these buildings.

Local voters elected the boards that manage them.

The legislature does not have constitutional authority to override both simply because it prefers a different educational model.

HB 2404 erodes local democracy, violates constitutional protections, and sets a dangerous precedent for state seizure of community assets. It should not pass.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVEN CARROLL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-5952	
REPRESENTING: ST LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOL		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 215 E CAPITOL			
CITY: JC		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 12:00 AM	
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